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Ural-Altaic languages, on Mœsogothic and on Melanesian dialects, and on the Khasia, a language on the southern slope of the Himalayan range. In this treatise upon the passive form of the verb he gave the result of his investigations of about two hundred languages. His death occurred in 1874, and in 1886 a biographic sketch was published by his son in the "Reports of Royal Academy of Sciences of Saxony" (read Dec. 11) of 25 pages. In this we read that the modest savant preferred investigation to authorship, and whenever he edited any of his works he did it more to communicate to the outside world the facts discovered by him than his own views and ideas. Of American languages he treated the Cherokee, Kiriri, and Dakota.

A. S. G.

L'Homme avant l'histoire, par Ch. Debierre. J. B. Baillière, 1888.
(*Bibliothèque scientifique contemporaine.*)

This is a small neat book, about the size of a French novel, of over three hundred pages, in which are presented in a concise form the most important facts known to science concerning prehistoric man, including the origin of the race. Designed as a popular treatise, it is only a compilation of material already published elsewhere; and, although it gives us the latest information, it gives us nothing absolutely new. Many who confine their scientific reading to popular treatises, we fancy, like to have their conclusions drawn for them. Doubt is rarely a happy state of mind, and the labor of settling doubts is tedious. Such readers will be disappointed in this work. In most cases the author sums up the evidence, but leaves the reader to make up his own mind. For our part we regret there are not more like him. The work is illustrated with 84 figures, many of which we recognize as old veterans in this service. We trust an English translator may be found for this handy volume.

PILLING'S BIBLIOGRAPHIES.—In 1885 Mr. James Constantine Pilling, of the Bureau of Ethnology in Washington, published his proof-sheets of a Bibliography of the North American Indians, a volume of nearly 1200 pages. It has since occurred to the author to publish his material in separate parts, each relating to one of the more prominent linguistic stocks in North America. In pursuance of this